

## Populated Areas

You are supporting a cordon and search mission in a populated area. Friendly ground forces come under heavy fire from several buildings.

Are you limited on what weapon systems you may use? Would you take out the buildings in self-defense?

## Populated Areas

Air attacks that are directed against enemy targets in populated areas must be executed in a manner that will mitigate risks of fratricide and injury or death to civilians as well as collateral damage. CAS must be authorized for this mission, and then what weapons are used will depend on the situation and what has been authorized. Leveling a city block to take out a sniper is not a proportional use of force, but 30MM or a precision weapon used to take out a section of a building may be where collateral damage is minimized.

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## Positive Identification of Targets

On the return leg of a mission, you sight three pickup trucks traveling at a high rate of speed toward a town. The lead truck clearly has two mortar tubes in the bed along with two people, and the other trucks each have two people riding in the bed of the truck.

May you strike this target?

## Positive Identification of Targets

In this case you do not know the identity of the people and they have not committed a hostile act against you, however, the mortar tubes are a valid target. You could strike the mortar tubes using necessary force. Another point is that the presence of mortar tubes demonstrates imminent threat of death or serious injury. The individuals in the truck have the present apparent ability to carry out an attack that will likely result in death or serious injury.



## Protected Places

You are flying over an area where a mosque is located. You begin to take small arms fire from the mosque as you approach, then an RPG is fired at you.

May you respond? How much force may you use?

## Protected Places

Mosques are protected places and may not be engaged except in self-defense or with higher authority. Small arms fire and an RPG could certainly trigger a response from you with self-defense. The point here is to use only the force necessary to repel the attack. Don't level the mosque and cause unnecessary collateral damage. Respond to the attack with the appropriate weapons you have available

## Out of Combat

You are providing support in a mission to engage a safe house that Intel confirms to hold several insurgents. A brief fire fight with ground forces occurs during which you fire rockets at two trucks insurgents are using as cover.

Two trucks begin to pull away from the combat and flee, and one of the insurgents is still clearly moving on the ground, but appears to be seriously wounded. May you fire on the trucks? May you fire on the wounded

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## Out of Combat

You may fire on the fleeing trucks. They still pose an imminent threat of serious injury or death. The insurgents in them may still be armed, and can go on to another position to ambush the ground force. As for the wounded insurgent, it depends on what he is doing. If an individual is wounded but continues to fight, they are not out of combat. If a wounded individual is no longer fighting, and is not a risk of serious injury or death, then they are out of combat and may not be engaged. It all depends on the facts of each situation, and you have to use your best judgment.

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## Discrimination

While providing CAS, you are engaged with small arms fire from what appears to be a group of homes. You have positively identified one house from which small arms fire is coming. May you openly engage the entire group of homes as you believe that fire is coming in from several directions?

# Discrimination

Though you may always use self-defense, consider the concept of discrimination. Attack only military targets or targets that pose a risk of harm to you. Use every attempt to discriminate between these targets and civilians and civilian structures. Minimize collateral damage to the greatest extent that you can within the parameters of your mission.

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# IEDs

There are three confirmed IEDs along a route to be traveled by friendly forces. Intel says that for the last two weeks several IEDs have been exploded in this area by command detonation, probably cell phones.

May you strike these locations by air? What about collateral damage? What if you receive a report while in flight that someone is planting a suspected IED in an area you will soon fly over?

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# IEDs

The IEDs are a legitimate military target and may be engaged once a collateral damage assessment has been completed and proper authorization has been given to fire in that area. Always attempt to minimize collateral damage to civilians and civilian structures, but if the individuals who are detonating the IEDs are nearby, they will be simply be part of the collateral damage. Upon receiving the report of someone planting an IED, consider whether you have authority to engage targets in that area taking into account the collateral damage, whether the area is highly populated, ect, and the type of weapons you will use. Planting an IED is of course a hostile act, but you can't drop a bunch of rockets into the area killing scores of civilians to get that one individual. You would confirm the location, and attempt to direct any ground forces that may respond while providing any other cover or assistance possible.

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